BLAYDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1948.

BLAYDON.
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1949.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

HENRY RUSSELL, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Officer:

TAYLOR P. VEITCH, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

GEORGE E. RENWICK, M.S.I.A.
WILSON JOYCE, M.S.I.A.

Public Health Clerk:

DOUGLAS D. BLAIR.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Blaydon-onTyne,
August, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Blaydon.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1948. This year is a landmark in the history of Public Health and the National Health Service and National Insurance Acts important milestones.

These Acts came into force on the 5th July and will remove much of the fear of poverty, so often associated with the injury or illness of the breadwinner.

The National Health Service Act has had its "teething" troubles and appears to be having a great deal of "growing" pains, but I feel sure it will develop into full growth and will be a model for the world.

We are reaping the benefit of our Immunisation Scheme for Diptheria. Only one positive case of this dreaded infective disease was notified during the year.

We had a widespread epidemic of Measles in the second quarter of the year but fortunately without any deaths.

Our thanks are due to the Surveyor, the Rating Department, and the Housing Surveyor for information included in my report.

I wish to give my personal thanks to the Staff of the Health Department who were at all times ready with their willing assistance and co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY RUSSELL.
Medical Officer of Health.

Area

Since 1936 the acreage has remained at 9,274.

Present density of population is 3.29 persons per acre.

Highest density of population (in 1925) was 3.96 persons per acre.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of our mid-1948 civilian population is 30,550 (an increase of 150 on last year) of which children 0 to 4 years (inclusive) account for 2,604 and children 5 to 14 years (inclusive) account for 4,560.

At the 1931 census the population stood at 32,363.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1948 was 8,715.

The density of persons per houses was therefore 3.5.

Rateable Value

The rateable value of the district is now £123,686 and excludes Freight, Transport and Electrical Hereditaments. The average rateable value per head of population is £4 0s. 11d. The estimated product of a 1d. rate is £463.

Industries of the District

These are chiefly mining and ancillary industries for production of coke and other by-products. There are also Iron and Steel Engineering Works, Iron Foundries and Chemical Works. Blaydon is also a railway centre with large Locomotive Sheds.

Agriculture—chiefly dairy farming—is also an important industry in the area.

Physical Features

Hilly area, Blaydon and Rowlands Gill lie low, Winlaton and Chopwell high. The rivers Tyne and Derwent form parts of the boundary.

Unemployment

The following table indicates the state of unemployment in the area since 1939.

	1939	1945	1946	1947	1948
Blaydon, Winlaton and Rowlands Gill	639	372	269	202	338
Chopwell, High Spen and Blackhall Mill	313	112	115	100	79

Vital Statistics for the year 1948

Births

Total Live Births	623	331M	292F
Total Illegitimate Births ...	19	11M	8F
Total Still Births	14	7M	7F

This gives a Live Birth Rate of 20.4 per 1,000 population and a Still Birth Rate of 0.46 per 1,000 population.

Birth Rate for Administrative County	20.0
Birth Rate for England and Wales	17.9
Birth Rate for 148 Smaller Towns	19.2
(Population 25,000 to 50,000)	

Deaths

The total number of deaths recorded during the year was 321 of which 157 were males and 164 were females, giving an annual death rate of 10.5 per 1,000 population as compared with last year's rate which was 11.32.

Death Rate for England and Wales ...	10.8 per 1,000
Death Rate for Administrative County ...	11.1 per 1,000

The Cardio-Vascular group of Diseases was again the chief cause of death: viz.:—

Heart Diseases	89	giving a total of 138 deaths for this group.
Intercranial Vascular Lesions ...	33	
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	16	

Deaths from Cancer totalled 49.

Infantile Mortality

Total deaths of infants under one year of age 23 (18M 5F).

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 37.0 per 1,000 live births.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the County is 47 per 1,000 live births.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 34 per 1,000 live births.

One child under two years of age died from Diarrhoea giving a rate of 1.6 per 1.000 live births.

The rate for England and Wales is 3.3 per 1,000 live births.

A graph is appended (page17) comparing the infantile mortality rates during the last 21 years in Blaydon, Durham County, and England and Wales.

Maternal Mortality

There was one death from maternal causes giving a Maternal Mortality Rate of 1.6 per 1,000 births.

The rate of the Administrative County is 1.31 per 1,000 births and for England and Wales the rate is 1.02 per 1,000 births.

Tuberculosis

There were 9 deaths (3 males and 6 females) from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 (both males) from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.29 per 1,000 pop.
Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.07 per 1,000 pop.
County Death Rates:—Pulmonary ...	0.49 per 1,000 pop.
Non-Pulmonary ...	0.10 per 1,000 pop.

New cases of tuberculosis notified during the year numbered 35 pulmonary (19 males and 16 females) and 5 non-pulmonary (3 males and 2 females).

Ambulance Facilities

Durham County Council provide the ambulance service under the National Health Service Act.

Doctors, Nurses and Dentists requiring an ambulance for any of their patients contact the nearest Ambulance Control, the Officer-in-Charge of which arranges for the necessary transport.

In the case of an accident or other serious emergency any responsible person may summon an ambulance by telephoning the Ambulance Control.

The nearest Ambulance Control to Blaydon is at the Ambulance Station, Villa Real, Consett. (Telephone No. CONSETT 411.)

District Nursing

The County Council is the responsible Authority under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act for the provision of a Home Nursing Service, but does not employ home nurses directly. This Service is, at the present time, provided by the County Nursing Association under the general supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health and any requests for a district nurse should be made to the nurses resident in the district or to the Superintendent of the County Nursing Association, 30, New Elvet, Durham. (Telephone DURHAM 837.)

Treatment Centres and Clinics

Clinics for school children, maternity and child welfare are provided by the County Authority at various centres throughout the district.

Dental and Sun-ray treatment are available for mothers and children at the Axwell Park, Blaydon clinic which is the main centre in the district.

Hospital Provision

The provision of Hospital, Sanatorium and Maternity Home accommodation became the responsibility of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Regional Hospital Board on the 5th July, 1949.

Infectious Diseases:

Cases of infectious diseases are removed to Normans Riding Hospital which comes under the Gateshead and District Hospital Management Committee. This hospital has a total bed complement of 76, of which 26 are available for Thoracic Surgery.

In the event of smallpox occurring in the district such cases would be treated at the Langley Park Hospital.

Venereal Diseases:

These are treated at the Venereal Disease Clinic, City Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases

During the year 584 notifications of infectious diseases were received, 16 of which proved negative. Scarlet Fever (93), Whooping Cough (90), and Measles (366) were most prevalent.

Enteric Fever

One case notified.

Smallpox

No cases occurred.

Typhus

No cases occurred.

Scarlet Fever

93 positive cases were notified. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria

Five suspect cases were notified of which four proved negative. The child who did contract the disease had not completed the Immunisation course.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis

Immunisation against Diphtheria of children of all ages is now the responsibility of the County Council.

The percentage of children immunised in this area is fairly high as indicated by the following table.

	Under 5 years.	Between 5 and 15 years.
(a) Estimated number of children in area at 31st December, 1948	2,604	4,560
(b) Number of children immunised at 31st December, 1948	1,358	3,921
(c) Percentage of child population shown under (a) considered immunised at 31st December, 1948, ...	52.15	86.00
(d) Percentage of child population shown under (a) considered immunised at 31st December, 1948. (All children 0 to 14 inclusive.) ...	73.69	

Measles

366 cases were notified of which 267 occurred during the second Quarter of the year. No deaths.

Whooping Cough

There were 90 cases notified, chiefly in the first Quarter of the year. No deaths.

Pneumonia

8 cases of lobar pneumonia and 2 of influenzal pneumonia were notified.

Erysipelas

3 cases were notified.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis

4 cases were notified with no deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

1 case was notified.

Acute Infective Encephalitis

No cases were notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis

No cases were notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia

1 case was notified.

Laboratory Facilities

All speciments for bacteriological examination are sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory, Government Buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne, by arrangement with Durham County Council. They are examined free of cost to both practitioners and patients.

The following table shows particulars of 382 examinations carried out in respect of residents in the Blaydon Urban Area during 1948.

Bacteriological Examinations for Blaydon District, 1948

	No. of Specimens	Positive
Blood (Seriological Examinations)		
Enteric Fever	3	—
Faeces		
Enteric	7	1
Dysentery	6	5
Organisms	20	4
Urine		
Organisms	4	1
Swabs (Throat, Nasal and Ear)		
Diphtheria	92	14
Hæmolytic Streptococci	48	19
Vincents Angina	3	—
Sputum		
Organisms	2	1
Tuberculosis	58	8
†Tuberculosis	59	12
***Miscellaneous**	10	5
	312	70

† These are tuberculosis specimens taken at County Dispensaries, Hospitals and Sanitoria.

* This section is comprised of examinations of Cerebro-Spinal Fluid; Sputum for organisms; Pus for organisms; Pleural Fluid; Miscellaneous Material for pathogens; Vaginal swabs and sputum for culture.

I have received the following report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area from the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Water Supply

No alteration took place in the sources of supply from those existing in former years and with the exception of a few isolated farm premises and Stella, who have private supplies, all the dwelling houses are supplied direct from the public mains. The Western part of the district together with Winlaton is supplied by Durham County Water Board and the Eastern part by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.

The new 9in. pipe line from Flint Hill Reservoir to the Fan Blast, Winlaton, was completed and on the 9th November the water was turned on, and Winlaton and Barlow are now being satisfactorily supplied with water.

The water supply in the area is of good quality and I have pleasure in again reporting that no cases of lead poisoning due to water supplies have been reported.

Closet Accommodation

During the year 9 ashclosets and 3 ashpit privies were converted into water closets, a grant towards the cost being made in each case. 528 additional water closets were provided in newly erected dwelling houses and 5 installed in business premises bringing the total number of water closets in the district to 9,327. Ashclosets total 463 and ashpit privies 154.

Household Refuse Collection and Disposal

With the exception of Barlow where the scavenging is carried out by contract, the whole of this district is scavenged by direct labour.

Ashbins are emptied twice weekly as circumstances permit and ash-closets and ashpit privies once per week.

The work was carried out regularly and on the whole satisfactorily throughout the year.

Tipping is controlled at each point of disposal.

At the end of the year the whole of the work was being carried out by mechanical transport, two 3 ton Dennis refuse collectors and two 3 ton Vulcan refuse collectors being regularly in operation while one 3 ton Vulcan was held as a reserve vehicle.

Salvage

During the year the collection of salvage continued and the following quantities of material were disposed of:—

	Tons	Cwts.
Paper	54	1
Metals		14
Rags	7	3
Kitchen Waste	3	12
Bones	1	11
	67	1

Shops and Offices

Food sales shops throughout the district were inspected and it was found that some of the premises did not conform with the provisions of the Food and Drugs and Shops Acts respecting sanitary accommodation, and hot and cold water facilities. These contraventions were drawn to the attention of the occupiers of the shops concerned and steady progress is now being made towards remedying the faults.

No statutory action was taken during the year.

Camping Sites

There are no licenced camping sites in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Seven private houses and three council houses, found to be infested with bed bugs were sprayed with an insectide containing 5% D.D.T. with satisfactory results.

Other Infestations

A number of minor infestations of silver fish and cockroaches were successfully dealt with by this department.

Picture Halls

Nine picture halls are operating in this area. These are kept in fairly satisfactory order.

Swimming Baths

There are no swimming baths in the area.

Rats and Mice Destruction

No statutory action under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act was taken during the year. The annual contract between the Council and County Council for the services of the County Rats Executive Officer for the destruction of rats on the Council's tips and sewage works was again renewed.

Complaints received of the presence of rats in shop premises, factories, dwelling houses, piggeries, etc., are investigated forthwith and the necessary action taken.

The bi-annual prebaiting and poisoning of the sewer manholes was again carried out with fairly successful results.

The estimated number of rats destroyed is as follows:—

Council Sewers	281
Sewer Outfalls & River Embankment ...	148
Factories	75
Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	73
Waste Paper and Scrap Depots	72
Private Dwellings	16
Piggeries	4
	669

Factories Act, 1937

Factories were visted during the year and it was not found necessary to take any statutory action under the Act.

Bakehouses

There were six bakehouses operating in the area which were visited occasionally and found in a clean condition.

Housing

The requisitions of a number of the Notices under Section Eleven of the Housing Act, 1936, outstanding from the previous year were complied with. Similar action taken in respect of two dwelling houses during 1948 resulted in the essential repairs being carried out.

Complaints respecting structural defects, foul conditions, etc., were investigated and informal notices served where necessary. A tabulated summary of complaints dealt with is given on page 16.

The following information respecting the erection of new dwellings during 1948 has been furnished by the Councils Housing Surveyor.

Permanent Brick Houses		
Chopwell	41	
Winlaton	32	
Rowlands Gill	4	
		77
Permanent Prefabricated Houses		
Chopwell	46	
Winlaton	65	
Rowlands Gill	10	
		121
Aluminium Prefabricated Houses		
Chopwell	46	
Rowlands Gill	50	
High Spen	20	
		116
Aged Persons Bungalows		
Winlaton		16
TOTAL		330

In addition to the above, two pairs of houses (Nos. 8 and 10, Delacour Road, and Nos. 10 and 12, Lynwood Avenue, Blaydon) which were destroyed by enemy action were rebuilt and one house in Firwood Crescent, High Spen, commenced in 1939 was completed.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936-46

The following licences under the above Regulations were granted during the year:—

Pasteurised Milk	4 Dealers Licences.
	1 Supplementary Licence.

Five farms in the area are licensed by the County Council to produce accredited milk and one farm is licensed to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Milk and Dairies Order 1926

Cowsheds and dairies in the district were inspected and found to be kept in reasonably clean condition.

Improvements were carried out at a number of farms owned by the National Coal Board.

Samples of milk were taken during the year for bacteriological examination, the majority of which proved satisfactory.

Copies of the reports were forwarded to the producers concerned and where the samples proved unsatisfactory the farms were revisited and methods to improve the cleanliness of the milk discussed with the dairymen.

Ice Cream

There are six ice cream manufacturers in the area whose premises are inspected and their ice cream sampled for bacteriological examination from time to time.

Whilst the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations are not being wholly complied with at the moment all the manufacturers are endeavouring to acquire the necessary appliances, these still being in short supply, which will enable them to do so.

Meat and Other Foods

Inspections of premises where food is sold, prepared or manufactured for sale were made.

The following quantity of food, found to be unsound, was voluntarily surrendered and so disposed of to prevent it being used for the food of man.

Canned Meat

5 tins Sausage Meat.
2 × 6lb. tins of Roast Beef.
9 tins Minced Beef Loaf.
8 ,, Luncheon Meat.
4 ,, Veal Loaf.
3 ,, Stewed Steak.
2 tins Pork Sausage.
2 ,, M. & V. Rations.
1 ,, Irish Stew.
1 ,, Brisket Beef.
1 ,, Pork Meat Roll.

Other Meats

928 lbs. Beef.
26 ,, Minced Beef.
8 ,, Pigs Chitterlings.
11 lbs. Black Pudding.
8 ,, Bacon.
2 ,, Sausage.

Fish

84 tins Mussels.
44 ,, Pilchards.
38 ,, Herrings.
24 ,, Salmon.
6 ,, Sardines.
2 tins Silver Hake.
1 ,, Snoek.
1 ,, Cod Roe.
1 ,, Lobster.

Milk

312 tins Evaporated Milk.

Jams and Marmalade

11 × 1 lb. Jars.
12 tins.

Canned Vegetables and Fruit

54 tins Peas.
43 ,, Carrots.
42 ,, Tomatoes.
29 ,, Beans.
20 tins Tomato Juice.
2 ,, Mixed Vegetables.
2 ,, Potatoes.
116 ,, Fruit.

Miscellaneous

367 lbs. Dried Apricots.
98 ,, Dates.
94 ,, Figs.
84½ ,, Prunes.
49 ,, Sugar.
7¾ ,, Butter.
2¾ ,, Cheese.
2 ,, Tea.
6 ,, Vermicelli.
62 tins Soup.
26 ,, Macaroni.
24 ,, Pudding Mixture.
10 ,, Paste.
4 ,. Sweet Corn.
2 tins Cream.
3 ,, Spaghetti.
1 ,, Spinach.
64 Pkts. Table Dessert.
1 ,, Jelly.
1 ,, All Bran.
1 ,, Shredded Wheat.
2 × 2 lbs. tins Syrup.
3 Pkts. Dried Eggs.
8 tins ,,
356 Jars Pickles.
4 tins ,,
1 gall. Mixed Pickles.
1 Bottle Sauce.

Summary of Work done during the year, 1948

Public Health Acts.	No. of Informal Notices Served.	No. of Nuisances Abated.
Dwelling Houses—		
Foul Conditions	11	11
Structural Defects	206	139
Dairies and Milkshops	1	—
Cowsheds	4	—
Bakehouses	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	19	4
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	—	—
Water Closets	32	30
Defective Yard Pavings	6	4
House Drainage Faults	67	51
Water Supply	10	10
Smoke Nuisances	—	—
Defective Ashbins Replaced ...	184	184
Alterations to Food Premises ...	4	2

General:

Ash-closets converted into water closets	9
Ashpit-privies converted into water closets ...	3
Samples of water taken for analysis	4

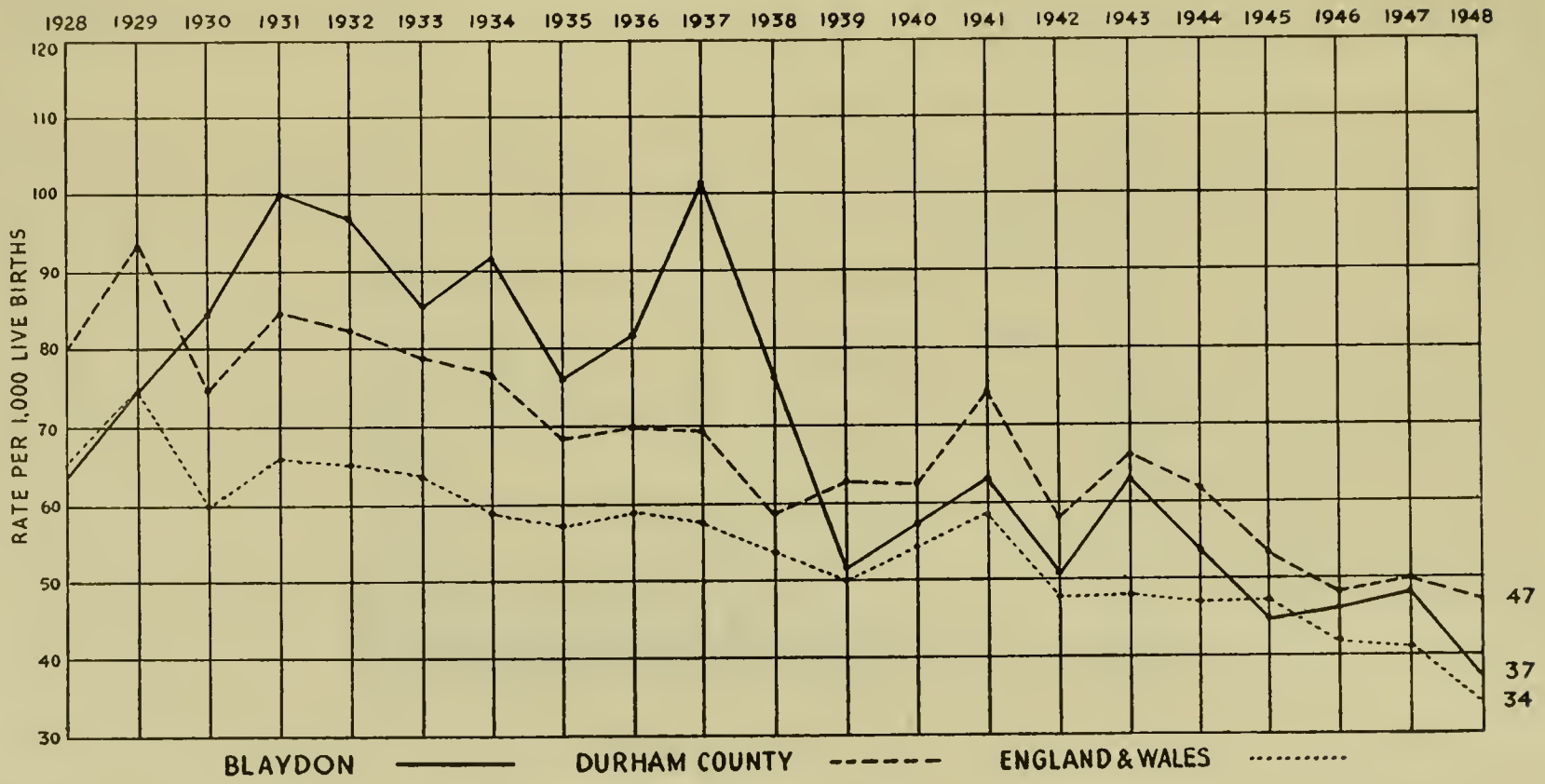
Precautions against Infectious Disease:

Lots of Infectious Bedding disinfected or destroyed	105
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	7

Number of Houses in the District:

Blaydon	2028
Stella	174
Winlaton	2145
Barlow	82
High Spen	749
Rowlands Gill	855
Victoria Garesfield and Highfield	506
Lintzford	24
Chopwell	1523
Blackhall Mill	272
Winlaton Mill	357
	8715

GRAPH comparing Infantile Mortality Rate for Blaydon, Durham County and England and Wales since 1928.



Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1948.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital at Norman's Riding.	Positive.	Negative.
Smallpox . . .	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever . .	100	94	93	7
Diphtheria . . .	5	5	1	4
Enteric Fever . .	1	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia . .	3	1	2	1
Pneumonia (Lobar.) .	8	—	8	—
Pneumonia (Influenzal) .	2	—	2	—
Erysipelas . . .	3	—	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis . .	1	1	—	1
Dysentery . . .	—	—	—	—
Measles . : .	366	1	366	—
Whooping Cough . .	90	—	90	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .	5	3	3	2
Malaria . . .	—	—	—	—

No deaths.

Analysis of Positive Cases into Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 years and over	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever -		2	3	5	5	44	25	6	2	1			93
Diphtheria -							1						1
Puerperal Pyrexia -									2				2
Pneumonia (Lobar) -	2								2	1		3	8
Pneumonia (Influenzal)										2			2
Erysipelas -									1	2			3
Pneumonia Neonotorum -													Nil
Enteric -													Nil
Measles -	9	48	56	68	71	112	1		1				366
Whooping Cough -	4	14	19	15	15	22		1					90
Poliomyletis -													Nil
Dysentery -													Nil
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis -					1	1					1		3

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1					
5		3	1	2				
15	5	7	1				1	
25	2	2				4		
35	2	1			1	1		
45	5	1			1	1		
55	4	2					1	
65 &upwa'ds	1				1			
Total	19	16	3	2	3	6	2	

Ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths=3 : 11.

TOTAL DEATHS.

Causes of Death in Blaydon U.D., 1948.

Causes of Deaths.	Males	Females
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	..	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	..	...
Diphtheria	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	3	6
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	2	...
Syphilitic diseases ..	...	...
Influenza .	1	...
Measles ...	...	...
Ac : Polio-Myel: and polio- enceph ...	...	...
Ac : Inf. Enceph ...	...	...
Cancer of buc , cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	2	4
,, of stomach & duodenum ...	8	5
,, of breast ...	...	3
,, of all other sites ...	12	15
Diabetes ...	...	3
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	14	19
Heart disease ...	36	53
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	6	10
Bronchitis ...	16	8
Pneumonia ...	10	8
Other respiratory diseases ...	2	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	5	...
Diarrhœa under 2 years ...	1	...
Appendicitis ...	2	1
Other digestive diseases ...	2	2
Nephritis ...	6	4
Puerperal and post-abort sepsis ...	...	...
Other maternal causes ...	...	1
Premature birth ...	7	2
Congenital mal: birth inj: infant: dis....	2	1
Suicide ...	3	...
Road Traffic Accidents ...	..	1
Other violent causes ...	8	2
All other causes ...	9	13
All Causes ...	157	164

Total No. of Deaths—321.